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A
MEMORIAL
Delivered to His
MAJESTY

(July $\frac{21}{31}$ 1664)

from the

Lord V A N G O G H

Ambassador from the STATES GENERAL
of the UNITED PROVINCES.

Translated into English.

With the

A N S V V E R

which His

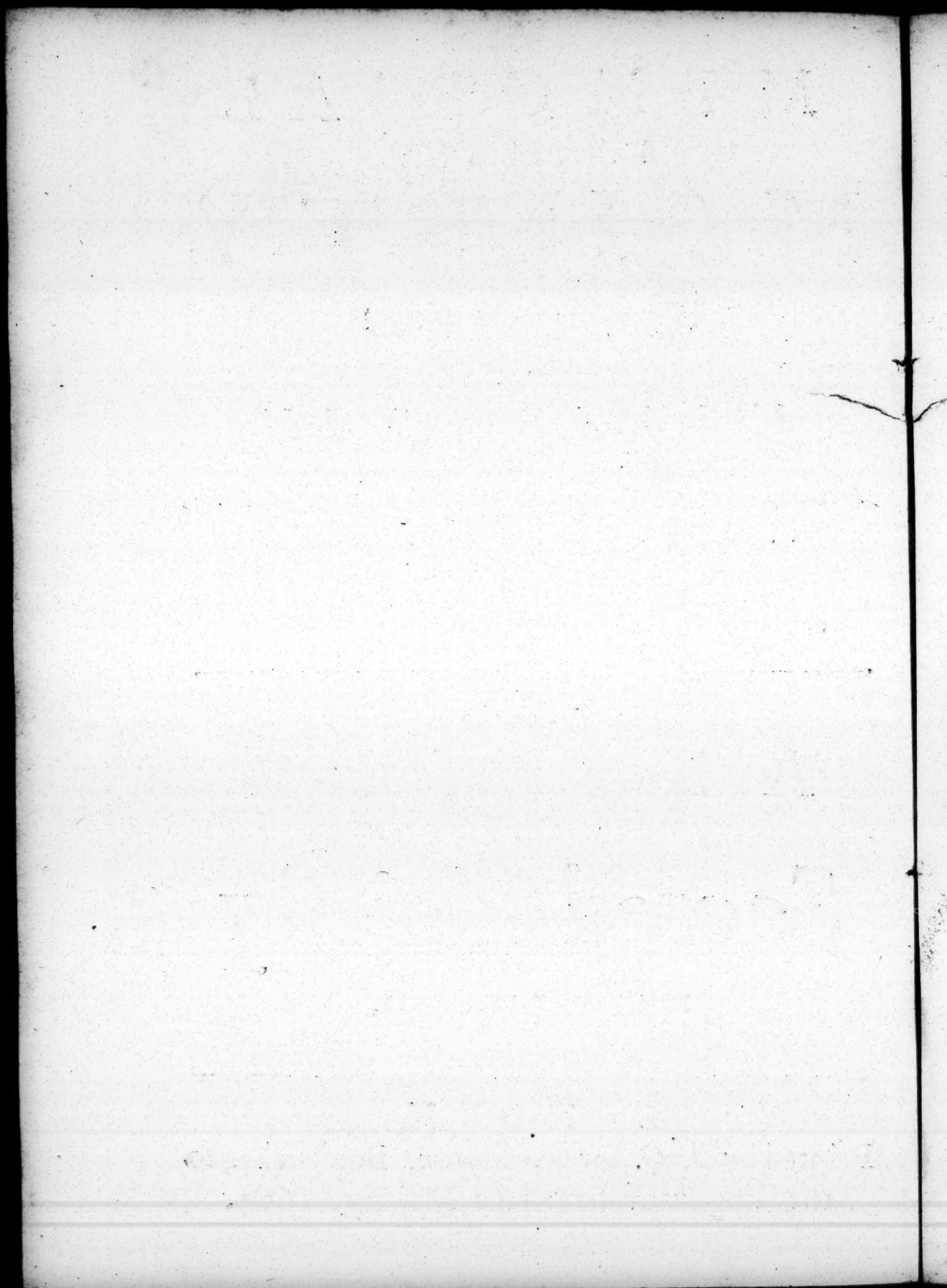
Sacred Majesty

returned thereunto.

M. W. Williams

L O N D O N,

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the Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1664.





THE
MEMORIAL
OF THE
DUTCH AMBASSADOR
TO HIS
MAJESTY.

S I R,



HE under-written Ambassador of the States General of the United *Netherlands*, Your good friends and Allies, having had the honor of several Audiences with Your *Majesty*, and therein made known to You such Orders as he hath from time to time received from his Masters upon occasion of, and concerning divers affairs, and especially these following: To wit,

Seeing it is understood and perceived, that Vessels of War are fitting and preparing on both sides, which if they go forth to Sea and meet there together, might by some misunderstanding fall foul upon one another; Your *Majesty* would therefore be pleased to keep back Your Fleet, and not suffer it to go to Sea, as their Lordships offer on their part to do; the whole intent and design tending one-

ly to the safety of both parties, and the prevention of the
foresaid sinister encounters.

Moreover, Whereas their Lordships have been informed, that Captain *Holmes* with the Vessels under his Command hath now again (as heretofore) done very great and enormous injuries to the *Netherlandish* Company of the *West-Indies*, by taking divers of their Vessels upon the Coast of *Africk*, as also by making himself Master of some places and Forts belonging unto them, and namely amongst others of *Capo Verde*, &c. which is directly contrary, not onely to the Treaty last concluded between Your Majesty and the States of the United Provinces, but also to mutual Amity and good neighbourhood: The said Ambassador did therefore in the name of his Superiors demand restitution of the same, and that reparation might be made of the damages and interests, which the said Company and other Subjects of their Lordships, who were concerned, have suffered thereby; as also that the like proceedings and violences might be prevented for the future by an express Order.

In the third place, That their Lordships being from day to day confirmed by certain intelligence coming from that Coast, that the foresaid action of Captain *Holmes* had not onely been effected in the manner above specified, but also that he was intended to carry on his design further, by making incursions and seizing upon all the Coast, and that for his better success therein, he expected a notable supply of Ships from *England*, as the whole matter may be proved by the Testimony and Depositions of credible persons newly come from thence: Which actions being without right, reason and equity, and which consequently cannot be endured, nor looked upon with a good eye, Your Majesty was entreated that it might be Your good Pleasure to command as well the said Captain *Holmes*, as others who
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were in that engagement, or are held to have been employed therein, not only to restore the foresaid Forts and Vessels so taken, and to repair the damages thereby suffered (as reason requires) but also that the Ships which by report are now ready to set Sail, or which may be fitting for that end, may by Your *Majesties* express Command be prohibited and charged not to do or cause any other injury or damage to the said Company, or to any other the Subjects of the United Provinces.

Fourthly, Forasmuch as the poor and afflicted Reformed Churches in the Valleys of *Piedmont* have represented, that after the agreement made with his Royal Highness the Duke of *Savoy* some while since, they are again overwhelmed & ruined by exactions & charges required of them to defray the expences of the Army which the said Duke had commanded against them, which charges amounted to so high a sum, that it was impossible for them to make it up, for the reasons more at large alledged in their Remonstrance; Therefore they have desired the intercession of the States General with Your *Majesty*, that Your Ambassador in the Court of *France* may have order to procure from his Most Christian *Majesty* (as being Mediator between his said Royal Highness and them) as much favour and comfort to those poor afflicted Churches as can possibly by any means be obtained.

And finally, considering that the Vessels coming from the United Provinces into the Rivers, Streams and Roads of this Kingdom, are stopped there under pretence that there be Persons and Commodities on board which come from places infected with the Plague, or at least suspected to be so, by which means the freedom of Trade and Passage is obstructed and disturbed, to the great prejudice of the inhabitants of both Nations: The said Ambassador therefore insisted thereupon, that the same might be remedied,

or at least that the strictness of those Orders might be mitigated in such measure as in reason shall be found convenient ; And that the rather, because, by the mercy of God, all the Provinces in general are not infected with the Contagion.

To all that is above said, Your *Majesty* hath been pleased to answer in effect, to wit, upon the first point, touching keeping of the Fleet from going to Sea, That the numbers which were fitted and prepared on Your *Majesties* side being no way extraordinary, but onely for common and customary use, and without design of bringing any damage or inconvenience upon the inhabitants of the United Provinces, the said Vessels could not be kept from going to Sea, because Your *Majesties* Honour was engaged therein ; Nevertheless that You would give such Orders to the chief Commander of Your said Fleet, that their Lordships shall have no cause to apprehend any sinister encounters from it.

As to the second, touching the action of Captain *Holmes*, Your *Majesty* thought good to answer thereunto, That You had received no information of it, and that having given no Order for his so doing, You would cause reparation to be made, if the matter proved to be true, and that the said Captain *Holmes* should be punished according as the case should require : Nevertheless adding thereunto afterwards at another Audience, that the *West-India* Company had likewise done much damage to Your *Majesties* Subjects upon the said Coast, pretending to be Masters thereof to themselves alone ; which thing ought to be considered also in its proper season, judging it unreasonable and unjust that the Trade of the *English* upon that Coast should continually be disturbed and hindred.

And as to the third, Your *Majesty* was pleased to say
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as before, That You had received no information of *Holmes* his actions in those parts; and for so much as concerned the Ships which are ready to set Sail towards the Coast of *Africk*, that they were not in a condition to make any attempt there, being onely Merchant-men, unto which there was added but one Man of War for their Convoy.

For what regards the poor *Piemontoies*, That You were sensibly touched with the miserable condition of those Churches and People, and for that reason Your *Majesty* had already given Order to Your Ambassador in *France* to contribute unto their relief and comfort in Your name; But forasmuch as at present there occur some new difficulties concerning the said Churches, Your *Majesty* would advise more particularly thereupon.

And lastly, concerning the Merchants Ships which come from the United Provinces into this Kingdom, and are stopped without permission to Land any where, because they are suspected to come from some place infected with the Sickness, there being no distinction made between Provinces and Cities really afflicted with the said Contagion, & those which are not so at all; That Your *Majesty* having an extraordinary apprehension of that disease, had great reason to use all possible precaution against it; Notwithstanding, that the business should also be thought upon more fully.

All which Points abovesaid having been repeated by the said Ambassador at his last Audience, and instance thereupon made, that according to their Lordships desires Your *Majesty* would be pleased to explain Your Self in Writing, to put the minds of his Superiors out of perplexity and disquiet; and Your *Majesty* having to that purpose
desired,

desired, that all should be comprized in a *Memorial* for an Answer to be given thereunto in Writing: The said *Memorial* (May it please Your *Majesty*) is here most humbly presented, with like prayer, that such Order may be taken therein, as that by a favorable answer (which the said Ambassador expects from Your *Majesty*) he may be enabled to give his Masters content.

M. Van-Gogh.

From Chelsey,
Julyth 1664.

His

HIS MAJESTIES ANSWER

to the fore-going MEMORIAL.



He Ambassador of the United Provinces having so particularly set down the Answers he received from Us in his several Audienceto his particular demands ; Albeit Wee think he may well acquiesce with the same, yet since he hath thought fit by his Memorial to desire an Answer in writing, Wee are very well pleased to satisfie him herein, that the States General may see the sincerity of Our proceedings towards them.

Concerning the preparations and provision of Vessels of War, it is notoriously known, that in the beginning of this year Wee gave order for the providing a less guard of Ships for the Summer then hath been set out any year since Our happy Restoration for that season, believing Our Self to be in so good Intelligence with all Our Neighbours, that Wee might well save that charge ; When Our Parliament, upon the Cry of the whole Nation, with some earnestness pressed Us to take an extraordinary way to repair Our People for the many and dayly injuries they sustained from the Subjects of the United Provinces by depredations at Sea, in other places as well as in the *East-Indies*, in which there were some circumstances of that

presumption, in declaring their Dominion, & inhibiting of Commerce against the Law of Nations, as all Princes are equally concerned therein with Us; Wee made no other answer to Our Parliament, then that Wee made no doubt but that Our good Allies, the States of the United Provinces, to whom in truth the Injuries sustained could not reasonably (Wee thought) be imputed, would cause Justice to be done; in order to which, Wee would appoint Our Minister residing there to make a Representation and Complaint. For which temper and moderation (when, it may be, another Resolution, considering the nature of the Provocations, would have been more agreeable to the desires of Our Parliament) Wee expected the thanks of Our good Neighbours; when on the contrary they no sooner received advice of this answer returned by Us, then in a very extraordinary manner they gave direction for the present setting out of a very great number of Ships of War, without any other visible cause then to manifest to the World how much they defied Us and Our Parliament. Upon all which, as Wee should have been thought to have had very little foresight for our Honour or Interest, if Wee had not prepared a considerable Fleet for Our defence, (the charge and expence whereof Wee would have been very glad to have prevented) so the same being prepared, it will be thought a very strange Proposition, that it be still kept within the Ports; And it will be found by their demeanour, that their Instructions are not to do any injury to Our

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Neighbours and Friends, but to defend Our Self, Our Dominions, and Our Subjects from receiving injuries from Our Enemies. Nor in truth can Wee believe or imagine that the United Provinces (from whom Wee have deserved well, and with whom Wee are ready to maintain a fast Friendship, to which many other considerations, besides that great one of the Protestant Religion, should dispose both of Us) will deny to doe Us Justice upon Our reasonable demands, or that they will ever sacrifice the Peace of their Country for the support of the miscarriages of particular Persons, or a particular Company, who Wee find by experience more considers their own Profit and Interest then the Honour or Safety of the Government under which they live ; which the States General will well weigh and consider.

As Wee did with great frankness, and as an everlasting manifestation of Our affection and kindness, conclude the late Treaty with the United Provinces, by which many very memorable discourtesies and injuries to Our Self and Our People, and particularly that of *Amboyna*, were put in oblivion ; so We have most exactly observed every Article on Our part, and have no sooner been moved in any particular in which the Subjects of the United Provinces have been grieved, then Wee have given order for their redress, in the most expedite way, without putting them to those formalities which are usual in Courts of Justice :

Whereas Wee are very sorry to say, that upon all the Complaints made at the *Hague* by Our Minister, in which the matter of Fact hath been most notorious and convincing, and the Right most apparent, redress hath not been given to any one, and such delays used in all, as are upon the matter and in the consequence of it a plain denial of Justice, which brings every day great complaints to Us from Our Subjects of all parts: Notwithstanding all which, Wee have not to this day granted one Letter of Mart upon the Subjects of the United Provinces.

Concerning Captain *Holmes*, Wee have with great sincerity assured the Ambassador that he had no Commission to take *Capo Verde*, nor any other place belonging to the *Dutch*, or to do any act of hostility upon any of the Subjects of the United Provinces, that was not for the defence of Our Subjects and their Trade into those parts: And Wee cannot but expect, that this Our free Declaration should find more credit with Our Allies then any Informations or Examinations of Mariners and Seamen, who seldom know what they inform. Wee expect the said Captain *Holmes* his arrival here every day, and will then, upon due enquiry into all that he hath done, determine what is just. The Ships at present designed for those parts are Ships of Trade, and have neither power nor will to wrong the Subjects of the United Provinces. But Wee are very heartily sorry to hear,
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not from general rumour, or the loose discourses of hear-says, but from the pregnant Evidence and full information of Our Governour of Our Fort of *Cormantine*, That about the end of *January* last, the Commanders of the Ships belonging to the *Dutch West-India Company*, after many assaults upon Our Merchants Ships in those Seas, and forbidding and restraining them from Trade, did stir up and hire the King of *Fantine* to assault & surprize that Our Castle of *Cormantine*, and to put the same into their hands for the price of sixty *Bendys*, whereof one half was payd down by the said *Dutch* Commanders, with this condition likewise, that the said Natives should enjoy to themselves all the plunder of that Our said Castle. In pursuance of which infamous Contract, and the better to enable them to perform the same, the *Dutch* Commanders supplied the said King of *Fantine* with a good quantity of Muskets, Powder and Cartages; whereof Our Commander having notice, by the blessing of God surprized the same: which it may be is one of those Acts of Hostility whereof mention is made in this Memorial, Wee having no notice of any other. Two Men of War, belonging to the *Dutch* Company, came from the *Mina to Cape Coast* to attend this enterprize at the time appointed, and accordingly the King of *Fantine* upon the fifth day of *February* last came with five hundred men in hope to have surprized Our Castle; but finding himself discovered, and forced to retire with some loss,

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he advanced again the next day with a Body of three thousand men, and continued a sharp fight with Our men for the space of four hours, after which time he was beaten off with great loss, and hath since with shame and sorrow acknowledged his breach of faith towards Us, and declared the motives and Contract aforesaid; the *Dutch* Ships at the same time driving a small Ship belonging to Our Merchants under the command of Captain *Borthwick* into Our Port of *Inashange*, anchored by him, hindred all the Canoes from coming on board him, and took his Boat and five men, which they would not restore till they found their other enterprize had miscarried. Wee cannot in any degree doubt that the States of the United Provinces will manifest their detestation of this perfidious design, and cause exemplary Justice to be done upon the Persons guilty of it, which Wee expect and require; and that instead of sending Ships of War to justifie these unwarrantable and scandalous proceedings, (which would be attended with ill effects, and would insensibly produce a War between the two Nations, which Wee desire to prevent,) their Wisdoms will reprehend and warn their *West-India* Company, that they hereafter forbear those outrages, and that they do not presume under the style of Merchants to usurp the Prerogative of Princes, and assume such a Dominion to themselves as, if it were in truth vested in them, would not warrant them to inhibit Traffique and Commerce with their Neighbours, but
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must incense all Christian Princes against their presumption.

Concerning the Reformed Churches in the valleys of *Piedmont*, towards whom Wee have expressed Our compassion and charity in a contribution since Our happy Restoration, as Wee will be always ready to relieve and protect the afflicted state of any Protestant Churches to Our Power; Wee being not fully informed of their condition, or the grounds of their late sufferings, know not what more to do, then to desire the Most Christian King to use his mediation, which Wee doubt not but he will do upon the desire of Our Ambassador in Our name, and according to Our directions.

Wee are exceedingly afflicted for those places within the Dominions of the United Provinces which are at present infected with the Plague, and do heartily pray to God that he will speedily withdraw that his Visitation from them, and in the mean time do in a great degree suffer with them, by the suspending that Traffique and Commerce which is so much for the good of both Nations: But it cannot be expected or desired that Wee will neglect or decline that provident care of Our People which is due to them, in using all possible means to preserve them from that Contagion, which cannot be done without such restraints, which are for the present with great loss and damage

to both People, and to which Wee hope the goodness of God will shortly put a period, by making the correspondence as safe and wholesome as it hath been, and restoring perfect health to the places now infected, as well as to their Neighbours, who cannot but in a degree suffer with them, though they are not under the same calamity.

Wee having now complied with the Ambassadors desires in giving this particular Answer in writing to his Memorial, and to all that he hath proposed to Us, Wee make no question but he will faithfully transmit the same to Our good Friends and Allies the United Provinces, and Wee desire him the said Ambassador to assure them, that Wee are so firmly resolved to maintain a firm Amity and friendship with them, that a War (by the blessing of God) cannot fall out between Us, except they depart from all rules of Justice, and suffer their Subjects to involve them in a War to support the wrong they do their Neighbours against all Right; which Wee are most confident they will never be induced to do, and which mischief (of which no man can foresee the end) their great Wisdoms will prevent.

CHARLES R.

By his Majesties Command.

Wil. Morice.